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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, MARCH 3, 2003

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

At the relation of the

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

CASE NO. PUE-2001-00298

Ex Parte: In the matter of  
establishing rules and regulations  
pursuant to the Virginia Electric  
Utility Restructuring Act for  
competitive metering services

ORDER INVITING COMMENTS

On February 25, 2003, the Staff of the State Corporation Commission ("Staff") filed with the State Corporation Commission a report presenting proposed rules for competitive electricity metering pursuant to § 56-581.1 of the Code of Virginia, and the Commission's Order of December 10, 2002, in this docket. The proposed rules address the implementation of financial ownership of electricity meters for large commercial and large industrial customers. The Commission finds that interested parties to this proceeding shall have the opportunity to file comments and request a hearing on the Staff's Report and the proposed rules.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) On or before April 16, 2003, interested persons may file with the Clerk of the Commission, c/o Document Control

Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218, an original and fifteen copies of comments on the February 25, 2003, Staff Report and proposed rules. All filings shall reference Case No. PUE-2001-00298, and a copy shall be served on all interested persons appearing on the official Service List.

(2) Any request for hearing on the Proposed Rules shall state in detail why a hearing is necessary. Such a request should identify the factual issues likely in dispute upon which the party seeks hearing, together with the evidence expected to be introduced at any hearing. If no request for hearing is received, the Commission may enter an order promulgating rules upon the basis of the written pleadings filed.

## CHAPTER 312

### RULES GOVERNING RETAIL ACCESS TO COMPETITIVE ENERGY SERVICES

#### 20 VAC 5-312-120. Electricity metering.

A. If the local distribution company provides interval metering as a customer's basic metering service in accordance with its applicable tariff, interval metering of that customer's load shall continue to be required if the customer purchases electricity supply service from a competitive service provider. Unless other arrangements are agreed upon between the local distribution company and the customer, the local distribution company may remove the interval meter if the customer's load deteriorates below previously established interval metering thresholds.

B. Upon a customer's request, the local distribution company shall provide interval metering service to the customer at the net incremental cost above the basic metering service provided by the local distribution company. The local distribution company shall reply to the customer in writing within five business days of the request for interval metering service, acknowledging receipt of the request, explaining the process, and identifying the prerequisites for commencing and completing the work. Once the customer has completed the applicable prerequisites, the local distribution company shall complete the work within 45 calendar days, or as promptly as working conditions permit.

C. The local distribution company shall offer each of the following interval metering service options to customers or their authorized competitive service provider to access unedited interval data from the local distribution company's interval metering equipment and consistent with the local distribution company's communication protocol: (i) read-only electronic access to

the interval billing meter, (ii) receipt of a stream of data pulses proportional to energy usage, and (iii) both of the foregoing.

D. As a component of interval metering service, the local distribution company shall read interval meters at a frequency in accordance with its applicable terms and conditions and shall store interval meter data at intervals compatible with wholesale load settlement requirements. Interval meter data may be estimated on occasion as necessary. The local distribution company shall make available to customers or their authorized competitive service provider 12 months of historical edited interval data through electronic communication medium unless otherwise requested by mail, as mutually agreed.

E. The local distribution company shall respond to requests from customers or their authorized competitive service provider to evaluate special metering functionality that may not be provided normally under the local distribution company's tariff but that is determined by the local distribution company to be within the capability of its interval metering equipment. The local distribution company shall acknowledge receipt of the requests in writing within five business days, indicating that the net incremental cost prerequisites and process for providing the special metering functionality will be submitted in writing within 30 days. Once the customer has completed the applicable prerequisites, the local distribution company shall provide the special metering functionality within 45 calendar days, or as promptly as working conditions permit.

F. The local distribution company shall install and maintain meters owned by large industrial customers and large commercial customers, if the meter is determined to be consistent with the local distribution company's billing and metering systems and communication protocol. Ownership shall apply to the meter as defined by a line of demarcation specified in the local distribution company tariff approved by the State Corporation Commission.

G. Upon a customer's request to own a meter in accordance with subsection F of this section, the local distribution company shall reply to the customer in writing within 10 days of the request, acknowledging receipt of the request, explaining the process, and identifying the prerequisites for commencing and completing the work. The local distribution company shall also explain its policies with respect to replacement of defective meters. Once the customer has completed the applicable prerequisites, the local distribution company shall complete the work within 45 days, or as promptly as working conditions permit.

H. Upon the installation of a meter owned by a customer in accordance with subsections F and G of this section, the local distribution company shall continue to have full access to the meter and shall continue to perform its normal obligations including but not limited to testing, replacement, customer accounting, reading and data management. In accordance with subsection C of this section, the local distribution company shall provide customers or their authorized competitive service provider with read-only electronic access to the meter.